



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

CENTRAL ASIAN REPUBLICS

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USAID Newsletter

Regional

USAID Helps Introduce Registrar And Credit Hour Systems In Central Asia's Higher Education Institutions

Recently, USAID's Business and Economic Education Project (B&EE) was asked to assist in converting Tajik universities to the U.S.-based credit hour system. According to a Government of Tajikistan's order, all 39 universities in the country must fully convert to the USA-based credit hour system within ten years. USAID's B&EE project is piloting registrar/credit hour system at four higher education institutions in the region, including one institution in Tajikistan. The project provides technical assistance to convert the pilots to western-based credit hour systems and prepares them to guide other institutions in replicating the pilots across Central Asia.

The credit hour system is gaining recognition in Kazakhstan as well. After a recent visit to the B&EE credit hour system pilots in Pavlodar and Miras Cities, Kazakhstan's Minister of Education has begun consultations with the USAID project regarding the expansion of the program to other institutions. Additionally, Ministers of Education of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan have discussed regional cooperation on this initiative.



To facilitate introduction of the new systems, USAID's project provides training for region's university administrators.

Photo: B&EE

Kazakhstan

With USAID Funding, CDC Assists With Pediatric HIV Outbreak Investigation In Kazakhstan

Earlier this year, at the Kazakhstan's Ministry of Health request, U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) participated in an epidemiological investigation of an HIV outbreak among children aged 6-24 months in Southern Kazakhstan. Initial cases were detected in February; as of September, the number of infected children is reported as 76. Beginning on May 10, CDC staff, including its Blood Safety Program Manager, two students from the USAID-supported CDC's Applied Epidemiology Training Program, and specialists from the Republican and South-Kazakhstan oblast AIDS centers, designed and conducted a scientific outbreak investigation. The study found that infections were likely caused by unsafe use of blood and blood products and lack of infection control procedures during medical interventions. Although CDC had provided related recommendations in the past, the outbreak indicates the need for further work to ensure proper and comprehensive implementation of these recommendations.



With funding from USAID, CDC is assisting to improve blood screening procedures in the region.
Photo: USAID



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USAID Helps Kazakhstan Prepare For the Introduction of Jury Trials

In September, USAID's Kazakhstan Judicial Assistance Project (KJAP) led a study tour for a group of 20 judges from every oblast of Kazakhstan to study jury trials in Moscow. Jury trials enter force in Kazakhstan on January 1, 2007 for capital cases, and USAID's project is helping the Kazakhstani judiciary prepare for the implementation of the new law. During the tour, judges received hands-on training at Russia's premier judicial training centers and watched actual jury trials in courts. Over the coming months, these judges will train their colleagues in the Oblast courts, using materials prepared by KJAP. "I'm extremely appreciative to USAID for receiving a deep understanding of the subject. You've done what we were not able to do by our own efforts,"-noted one of the tour participants. KJAP is implemented by Chemonics.

USAID Supports the Nationwide Introduction of the Judicial Mentorship Program

In September, USAID's Kazakhstan Judicial Assistance Project (KJAP), implemented by Chemonics International, led a hands-on training for judges who had volunteered to support the roll-out of the judicial mentorship program to new oblasts. Judicial mentorship is a proven means of giving new judges continuing education on important professional and personal topics relevant to serving as a judge. The existing mentorship program is only active in only a few oblasts, but there is strong demand from judges in other oblasts to participate. KJAP is thus working to strengthen and expand the program so that more judges are able to take advantage of this effective program. Over the coming months, the judges who participated in this USAID training will travel to different oblasts to train judges to be mentors. These new mentors will also receive a practical "Mentor Handbook" which KJAP developed to support them in their new roles.



Kazakhstan's judges get a first-hand look at the juror box during meetings with Russian judges.

Photo: KJAP



USAID's project is training Kazakhstani judges to become mentors for their newly appointed colleagues.

Photo: KJAP

Kyrgyzstan

USAID-Supported Association of Civil Society Support Centers for Advocacy Receives Award from the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE)

The award, "Associations Make a Better World", acknowledged the Kyrgyz organization as one of the best associations worldwide in improving advocacy in the developing countries. ASAE annually recognizes work of the best associations that make a significant contribution to societies and economies worldwide. The USAID-supported association was nominated for organizing and conducting a nationwide civic campaign "I am for the Honest Elections" during the 2005 presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan. The advocacy campaign was financed and supported by USAID.

The American Society of Association Executives has a membership of association executives from nearly 11,000 organizations and is a leading advocate for nonprofit sector.



During the award-winning campaign NGO representatives worked to ensure fair and transparent election processes.

Photo: ACSSC



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Kyrgyzstan is Recognized as a Leader in Appraisal Reform by Newly Independent States (NIS) Appraisers

The NIS Congress of Appraisers elected Kyrgyzstan to chair the Council of NIS Appraisers during 2007 in acknowledgment of the country's leading role among their NIS colleagues in appraisal reforms. The international congress was held in September in Kyrgyzstan, with support from USAID's Land Reform and Market Development Project. Appraisers from Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan met to discuss the role and place of independent appraisal in the development of land markets. The conference included a presentation of a draft Appraisal Law of the Kyrgyz Republic and led to the decision by the delegations of Kazakhstan, Belarus, and Moldova to develop national standards for their respective countries on the basis of the Kyrgyz national standards.



Kyrgyz appraisers discuss a USAID-supported appraisal reform pilot with their NIS colleagues.
Photo: USAID

USAID's Career Development Center Pilots to Be Replicated Countrywide

The Ministry of Education in Kyrgyzstan recently mandated establishment of career development centers at all universities in Kyrgyzstan. Career development centers were first introduced in the region by the USAID Business and Economics Education Project. Such centers provide student career counseling, courses on CV preparation and interviewing, information on skill requirements, access to job opportunities, and employment assistance. USAID's project supports four pilot career development centers: one Kazakhstan, one in Tajikistan, and two in Kyrgyzstan. In addition to student services, USAID's pilots work to promote the introduction of such centers in other higher education facilities.

To facilitate the opening of career development centers in country's universities, the Ministry of Education of Kyrgyzstan also approved the dissemination of the manual entitled *How to Start a Career Center at a University*, developed by one of the USAID pilots.

Tajikistan

USAID Opens the Second Family Medicine Center in Tajikistan

The USAID ZdravPlus Project opened a new Center of Excellence in Family Medicine at Konibodom City Health Center No.1 on September 22. Like USAID's first pilot Center of Excellence in Dushanbe, the Konibodom facility will model a single family doctor approach in primary care. At the new family medicine center, patients will receive a comprehensive range of services from their family doctor, instead of going to multiple narrow specialists as they were used to in the Soviet system. The center will also operate a training program in family medicine, where Konibodom City health care specialists will have an opportunity to learn the use of evidence-based principles and improve their adherence to clinical practice guidelines.

Piloted by USAID's ZdravPlus Project, family medicine concept integrates services for all ages, genders, and treatment categories and promotes lasting relationships of the patients with doctors who are familiar with their medical histories and ongoing health care needs.



USAID Country Director, City Mayor, and a representative from the President's Office launch the new Center of Excellence in Family Medicine in Konibodom.
Photo: USAID



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Turkmenistan

USAID's Partner Organization Receives Full Membership in Eurasian Council of Certified Accountants and Auditors (ECCAA)

In the early July, Turkmen Union of Accountants upgraded its status to full ECCAA membership and now has a right to serve as ECCAA's representative in Turkmenistan and to accredit educational entities that provide training on accounting in the country. The union is Turkmenistan's first independent, professional accounting association. Through this organization, USAID's Enterprise Development Project promoted the adoption of International Accounting Standards, trained accounting practitioners, and supported the overall development of an accounting profession. Over the past three years, the union and other organizations delivered over 70 USAID-supported training courses for more than 1,300 participants.



A group of newly certified accountants, trained with assistance from the USAID program .

Photo: EDP

USAID's Expands Training on Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) Beyond its Pilots

At the Ministry of Health's request, in September USAID's ZdravPlus Project began providing IMCI training to rural doctors and felchers (registered nurses) from all districts across the country. Until recently, the IMCI was piloted by the USAID project in ten districts, two in each of the five provinces of Turkmenistan. The WHO-recommended approach enables doctors to diagnose childhood illnesses locally without sophisticated equipment, and therefore is especially well suited in rural areas, where there aren't sufficient diagnostic facilities. The method is focused on preventive measures and treatment of the first symptoms of disease.



Family physicians practice newly learned skills .

Photo: ZdravPlus

The USAID-funded ZdravPlus and Healthy Family Projects have been working with the Ministry of Health since 2002 to implement the IMCI strategy on several levels, including trainings for doctors and nurses, introduction of IMCI into the medical education system, and informing parents through community outreach activities.